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## THE HUDSON-FULTON EXHIBITION

THE Museum's part in the Hudson-Fulton Celebration—the Exhibition of Dutch and American art—was opened on Monday evening, September 20th, with a reception to the members and their friends and the Hudson-Fulton Commission and Committee on Art Exhibits. The guests were received in the Morgan Gallery of Porcelains, by Hon. Stewart L. Woodford, President of the Hudson-Fulton Commission; Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, President of the Museum and Chairman of the Committee on Art and Historical Exhibits; Mr. Robert W. de Forest, Chairman of the Committee on Art Exhibits; Mr. George F. Kunz and Mr. Edward Robinson, of this Committee.

A string orchestra under the direction of David Mannes, stationed in the gallery at the north end of the main Fifth Avenue hall, played during the evening.

The Exhibition will continue during November.

## OLD DUTCH MASTERS\*

BY ROYAL CORTISZOZ

FROM THE "TRIBUNE," SEPTEMBER 19, 1909

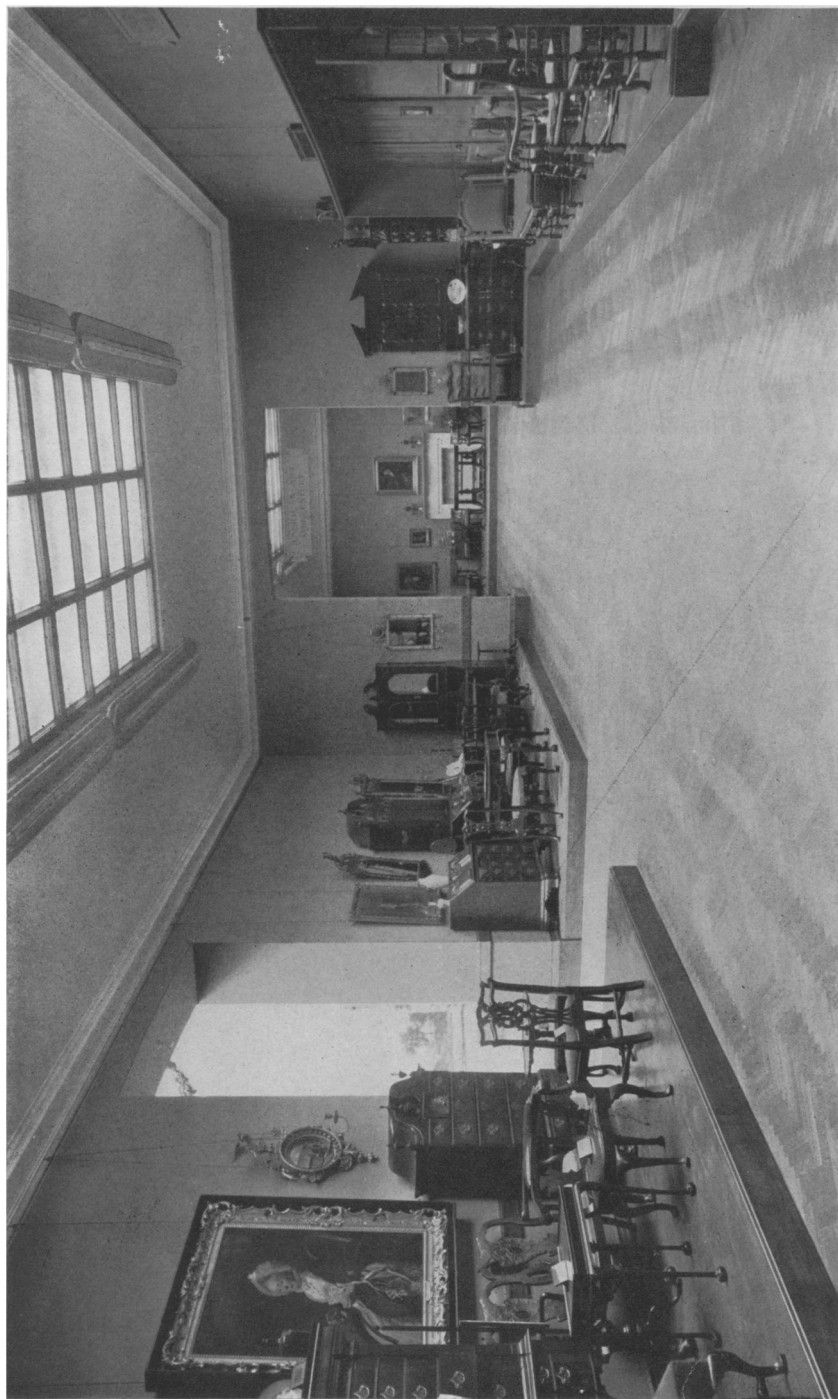
EVERY student of seventeenth-century Dutch painting knows how indispensable to his purpose are certain historic galleries in Europe. Nevertheless, if anything could be substituted for the experience thus to be secured, it would be such an acquaintance with the subject as may now be made at the Metropolitan Museum. The collection of about a hundred and fifty old Dutch pictures which has been brought together there by the Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission is one of extraordinary significance.

No such resplendent show has hitherto been made in this country, and in all probability it will be many a year before anything like it is organized again. It was rendered possible, of course, only by the generous spirit of a number of private

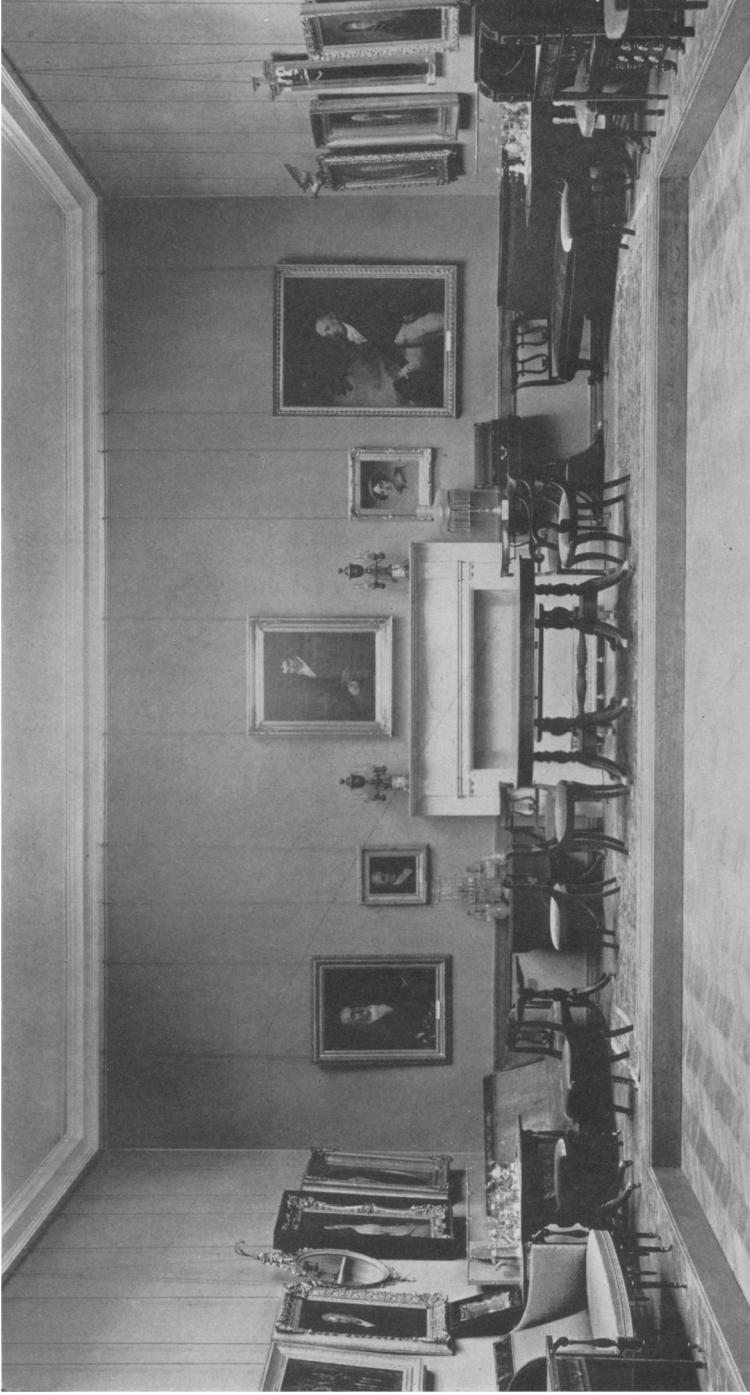
\* Many important notices on the painting in the Dutch Section of the Hudson-Fulton Exhibition have appeared in the daily press, two of them we are kindly allowed to reprint here.

owners. From the Museum's own rich store a number of invaluable works have been drawn, but this undertaking has rested heavily on the coöperation of Mr. J. P. Morgan, Mr. J. G. Johnson, Mr. H. C. Frick, Mrs. C. P. Huntington, Mrs. H. O. Havemeyer, Mr. M. C. D. Borden, Mr. B. Altman and divers others.

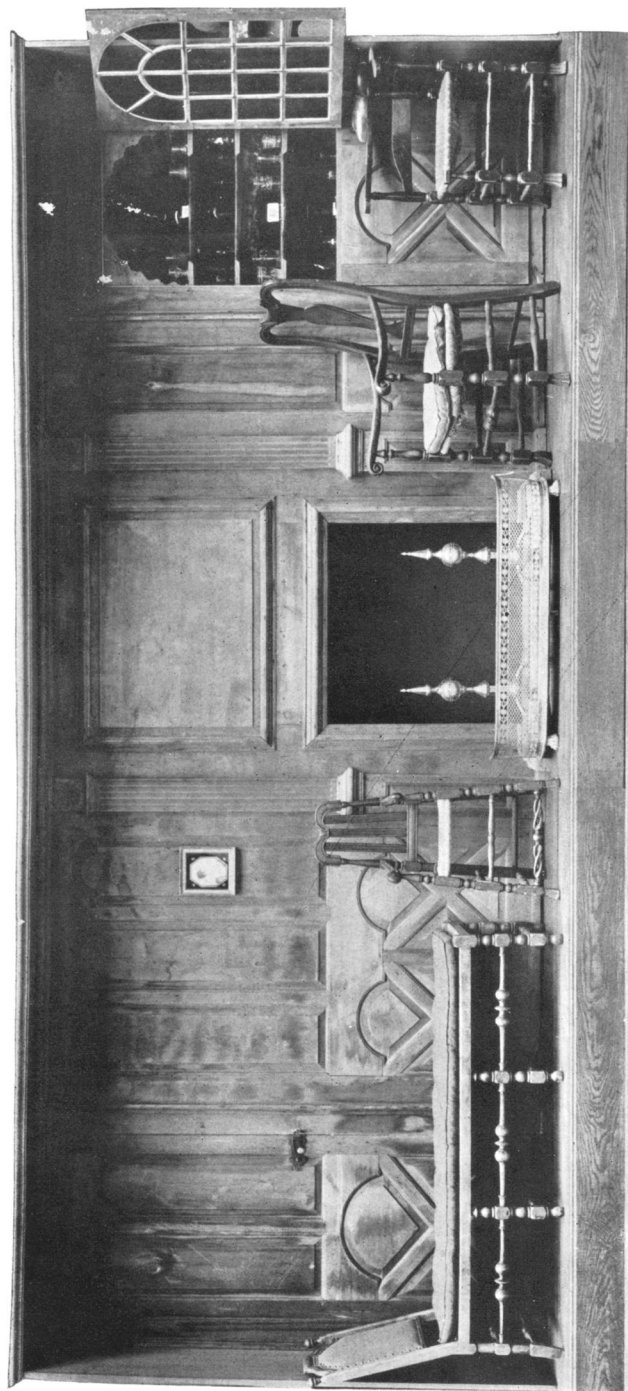
The immediate appeal of an exhibition of this sort is made to the spectator's curiosity and his sensuous instinct. It is, by itself, a little exciting to see so many famous works gathered together in one place, and after the first moment of surprise there follows a kind of glut of the eye, a reckless gormandizing of massive draughtsmanship and sumptuous though somber tone. Later impressions take account of more complex elements of charm and provoke reflection on the remarkable educational value of the collection, framed as it is with special reference to that Dutch period in the history of New York which is just now uppermost in our minds. These pictures throw, to begin with, a flood of light on Dutch types, Dutch manners and dress, boldly relieved against a background of Dutch landscape and architecture. In the portraits of Rembrandt and Hals you are brought face to face with the seventeenth-century burgher and his wife; Vermeer and De Hoogh will show you how they lived at home, and while the Ruisdaels expose the character of the countryside and waterways in Holland the broadly humorous compositions of Jan Steen will people the scene for you with Hobbinsol and his doxy. The light that suffuses this land of our ancestors is gray and cool. For all the moisture in that northern atmosphere things are seen clearly in it and painted with meticulous accuracy. Steady-going realists we dub the painters of the place and the period. For one explanation of the course they followed look at their flat landscape, their comfortable farmsteads and their comparatively sunless sky. Look also at the society reflected in their paintings, at the heavy frames and honest but quite unemotional physiognomies of the men and women, and at the wholesome, earthy lives they lead indoors and out. What more natural than that the artists dwelling in



HUDSON-FULTON EXHIBITION, AMERICAN SECTION



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